

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	Attorney Docket No.: <b>AIBARA0003</b>
	)	Confirmation No.: 4356
Hideaki KIKO	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 2161
Serial No.: 10/597,648	)	
	)	Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: August 2, 2006	)	
	)	
For: VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SYSTEM	)	Date: October 11, 2007

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT**

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, this  
Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the above-identified application is  
being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

- ☐ within three months of the filing date of this application (not a C.P.A.);
- ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the National Stage;
- ☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or  
before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits of, after the filing of a  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under §1.114.

A copy of each non-U.S. document identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B is attached, however, in accordance with Official Gazette Notice dated August 5, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

Attached is a copy of the Supplemental Search Report issued in the corresponding European Patent Application. Since all of the documents cited herein were cited in said Search Report, it is believed that the relevancy of each document cited is clear from the Search Report. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

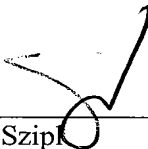
The Supplemental Search Report was completed on July 11, 2007 and mailed on July 11, 2007, less than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that the Examiner initial a copy of Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and return them to the undersigned to indicate that the documents have been considered.

It is believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-8, but should the filing of this paper necessitate a fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1281.

Respectfully submitted,

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